

HOUSE RESOLUTION 36

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION urging Tennesseans to consider the many benefits of green job growth in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, green jobs have been defined as family-supporting jobs that contribute significantly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the types of jobs needed to create a clean energy economy can be organized into six specific energy strategies: building retrofitting, mass transit, energy-efficient automobiles, wind power, solar power, and cellulosic biofuels; and

WHEREAS, new jobs will certainly be needed for building a green economy, but the vast majority of jobs associated with these six green strategies are in the same areas of employment that people are already working in today; and

WHEREAS, by examining the number of workers across this State who will be affected by green economy strategies, it becomes clear that tens of thousands of Tennesseans have job skills that are representative of the broad range of skills needed to build clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, building retrofitting, for example, will need electricians, heating/air conditioning installers, carpenters, construction equipment operators, roofers, insulation workers, carpenter helpers, truck drivers, managers, and building inspectors; and

WHEREAS, mass transit solutions will require the services of civil engineers, rail track layers, welders, engine assemblers, production helpers, bus drivers, and dispatchers; and

WHEREAS, the production of energy-efficient automobiles will employ computer software engineers, electrical engineers, technicians, welders, equipment painters, metal fabricators, machine operators, engine assemblers, production helpers, and managers; and

WHEREAS, areas of most promise for alternative energy resources in Tennessee include biomass, geothermal heat pumps, hydropower, solar photovoltaic, and wind; in order to craft essential components for these industries, machinists will be needed, along with iron and steel workers, millwrights, construction equipment operators, electrical equipment assemblers, truck drivers, and production supervisors, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has lost more than 100,000 manufacturing jobs since 1997, nearly 54,000 of them in the durable goods manufacturing industries; these are precisely the industries that could gain employment if renewable energy component manufacturing could be expanded in this state; and

WHEREAS, a clean energy economy will significantly enhance the quality of our environment by moving our country toward energy independence and ending our harmful dependence on fossil fuels, while also putting tens of thousands of Tennesseans back to work in green jobs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we urge Tennesseans to consider the many benefits of green job growth in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.